

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A hammock stand comprising four legs, four support rods to which a hammock is coupled, and a pair of cross braces, wherein the legs and the support rods are coupled to each other on respective ends of the hammock stand via respective ~~and the~~ cross braces ~~are coupled to each other~~ such that the cross braces, without being uncoupled from the legs and support rods and upon folding of the hammock stand ~~synchronize force~~ a movement in which two of the four legs approximate each other in a front-to-back and side-to-side motion as two of the support rods pivot towards each other, and wherein the second of the four legs is coupled to the first of the support rods via a connector rod that releasably engages with the first of the support rods and forms an obtuse angle with the second of the four legs when the hammock stand is in an open configuration.
2. (Original) The hammock stand of claim 1 wherein a first and a second of the four legs are rotatably coupled to each other.
3. (Original) The hammock stand of claim 2 wherein a first support rod is rotatably coupled to the first of the four legs and wherein a second of the support rods is rotatably coupled to the second of the four legs.
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (previously presented) The hammock stand of claim 1 wherein the cross braces in the pair of cross braces are rotatably coupled to each other, and wherein at least one of the cross braces is rotatably coupled to the first of the four legs, and rotatably coupled to a third of the support rods.
7. (previously presented) The hammock stand of claim 1 wherein the hammock is coupled to at least two of the four support rods via a hook.

8. (Original) The hammock stand of claim 1 further comprising a flexible element that couples the first of the four legs with a third of the four legs and that facilitates collapsing of the hammock stand when the flexible element is pulled upwards relative to the ground and when the hammock stand is in an open configuration.
9. (Original) The hammock stand of claim 8 wherein the flexible element comprises a sheet of fabric.
10. (Original) The hammock stand of claim 9 wherein the sheet of fabric further comprises a handle.
11. (Original) A hammock stand comprising:
  - a first leg, a second leg, a third leg, and a fourth leg; and further comprising
  - a first support rod, a second support rod, a third support rod, and a fourth support rod, wherein the first, second, third, and fourth support rod are rotatably coupled to the first, second, third, and fourth leg, respectively;
  - a first pair of cross braces rotatably coupled to each other, wherein one of the first pair of cross braces is rotatably coupled to the first leg and third support rod and wherein the other of the first pair of cross braces is rotatably coupled to the third leg and first support rod;
  - a second pair of cross braces rotatably coupled to each other, wherein one of the second pair of cross braces is rotatably coupled to the second leg and fourth support rod and wherein the other of the second pair of cross braces is rotatably coupled to the fourth leg and second support rod; and
  - a first connector rod, a second connector rod, a third connector rod, and a fourth connector rod, wherein the first, second, third, and fourth connector rod rotatably couples the first leg and the second support rod, the second leg and the first support rod, the third leg and the fourth support rod, and the fourth leg and the third support rod, respectively.

12. (previously presented) The hammock stand of claim 11 further comprising a hammock that is coupled to the first, second, third, and fourth support rod.
13. (Original) The hammock stand of claim 12 further comprising a sheet of fabric coupled to the first, second, third, and fourth leg, and that facilitates collapsing of the hammock stand when the sheet of fabric is pulled upwards relative to the ground and when the hammock stand is in an open configuration.
14. (Original) The hammock stand of claim 13 wherein the sheet of fabric further comprises a handle.
15. (canceled)
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)
18. (canceled)
19. (canceled)
20. (canceled)
21. (currently amended) A hammock stand comprising four legs, four support rods to which a hammock is coupled, and a pair of cross braces, wherein the legs and the support rods are coupled to each other on respective ends of the hammock stand via respective ~~and the cross braces are coupled to each other~~ such that the cross braces, without being uncoupled from the legs and support rods and upon folding of the hammock stand ~~synchronize~~ force a movement in which two of the four legs approximate each other in a front-to-back and side-to-side motion as two of the support rods pivot towards each other, wherein the second of the four legs is coupled to the first of the support rods via a connector rod, wherein the pair of cross braces are rotatably coupled to each other, and wherein at least one of the cross braces is rotatably coupled to the first of the four legs, and rotatably coupled to a third of the support rods.